BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

JULY 2026

Meetings for July and August will be via Zoom only.

A Message from the President
By Doug Bruce, N1WRN

Greetings, Fellow Members,

As I write this column, we are starting to lose a couple of minutes every day as we slowly approach the Winter Solstice! It won't be long until we are back in peak DX season during the winter months here in the Northern Hemisphere. I am working towards my 5 band DXCC Award, and the 80 meter band is all that stands in my way of achieving that award. I presently have only 43 countries confirmed on 80 meters. As the nights get longer, my pursuit of 100 confirmed contacts should get easier, as propagation on the 80 meter band will improve markedly during the winter months with the longer nights. As I write this column, I just worked the Dxpedition on Easter Island, 3G0YMon the 30 meter band. This contact acted as a direct example of propagation on the gray line! I worked Easter Island at 00:36 UTC and his sunset per QRZ is 00:33! Gray line propagation at its finest!

In other news, I had sent out an email in the last week or so indicating my desire to step down as President of BARS. I feel that it is time for new leadership in the Club going forward. I am most proud of the work that Dave KC1TLF has done on our great website. He has brought the page into the 21st century with his creativity and ingenuity. Dave has been a great Vice President and I look forward to may more years of Dave's enthusiasm for the Club for the future. I also want to commend Tim K1DC, who has done a fantastic job this year as our Field Day Director. Tim brings his ham radio expertise to Field Day where he seamlessly sets up and monitors our Field Day operation, setting up the stations and making sure that they are all running at peak efficiency, enabling Club members to be able to make as many contacts as possible on Field Day.

Stepping down from the Presidency at this time will enable me to take a step back and really enjoy the hobby. My favorite part of being President has been to get some of the best Guest Speakers to share their knowledge and passion for our great hobby with our members. Many thanks to the number of speakers we have had over the years on meeting nights via Zoom. I think I have one of the best speakers lined up for the July 1 Club Meeting (Zoom Only!) in Max N4ML, who was a member of the Team that went to Bouvet Island in March! Max is a young and up and coming ham, which is what we need to keep our great hobby vibrant and relevant going forward.

In conclusion, I have really enjoyed my time as your President, and I will still be the Net Manager, a job near and dear to my heart. We are always looking for Net Controllers, so step up and take a crack at it! Who knows, you may like it and want to be a permanent member of our Net Control Team!

Until next month, 73 and good DX,
Doug
N1WRN

Next BARS meeting: July 1 at 7:00 PM – "The Bouvet Island 3Y0K DXpedition"
Speaker: Max Freedman, N4ML

It gives me great pleasure to announce our Guest Speaker for the July 1 Club meeting. The speaker will be Max Freedman, N4ML, who will give a talk on his experiences on his recent ham adventure as part of the Bouvet Island 3Y0K DXpedition Team. You won't want to miss his insights on this once in a lifetime trip to the most remote island on Earth!

Here is Max's bio:

Max Freedman, N4ML — Amateur Radio Operator and ARRL Educator
Max Freedman, call sign N4ML, is a young and accomplished amateur radio operator who has made significant contributions to both the hobby and amateur radio education.

Early Career and Achievements
Max was first licensed in 2016 at age 12 and quickly became active in contesting, DXing, and special expeditions. He is a 2026 WRTC competitor and a member of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium hamxposition.org+1. He has activated rare DXCC entities such as Bouvet Island as part of the 3Y0K Bouvet Island DXpedition 2026, where he was noted as the youngest team member and possibly the youngest person ever to visit the island YouTube. He has also participated in the 2025 PJ2 Youth DXpedition NCDXF.

Clubs and Affiliations
N4ML is active in multiple amateur radio clubs, including the YCCC (Yankee Clipper Contest Club), NCDXF (Northern California DX Foundation), INDEXA, SEDXC, and the Newington Amateur Radio League hamxposition.org+1.

Professional Role
Max's "vocation" is also his "avocation." He works full-time as an ARRL Education and Learning Support Specialist, helping keep the ARRL Learning Center updated, supporting registered instructors, and contributing to the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology ARRL. His work focuses on bringing amateur radio into classrooms and STEM programs.

Notable Expeditions

- **3Y0K Bouvet Island DXpedition 2026** — Operated on Bouvet Island, one of the most remote places on Earth, using CW, SSB, and FT8 modes YouTube+1.
- **PJ2 Youth DXpedition 2025** — Contributed to youth-focused DXing efforts NCDXF.

Recognition
Max is recognized for combining deep technical skill in amateur radio with a passion for education, making him a role model for young hams and a bridge between the hobby and STEM outreach ARRL.

We will announce the link to join the Zoom meeting before the meeting, but it will be posted to the BARS email list and should not be shared outside our Club. Are you on the email list? If not, please send an email to

bars-subscribe@w1hh.org

and then simply reply to the robot response from the server and you will be subscribed.

Observing our Zoom meeting requires only a web browser and headphones/speakers. You do not need a webcam or microphone unless you want to speak or be seen.

Before our meeting date, please go to https://zoom.us/test and see if it will function for you. If you have problems, we can try to assist – feel free to ask questions on the BARS email list.

I am looking forward to "seeing" many of you there on Wednesday, 7/1, at 1900.

Doug, N1WRN
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

From the Editor's Desk
By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

This newsletter is late, unfortunately. I spent the past week in bed fighting a viral infection of some sore – probably just a cold, but if so, it was the nastiest one I've had in some time. My apologies.

Feature Article: Field Day is Over!
By Tim, K1DC

Fellow BARSians,

The 2026 Field Day is in the books! I would like to thank those folks that stuck around for the site tear-down tonight: (in no particular order), any omissions are due to dehydration on my part)

- Wayne/KC1ONM
- Chris/W2BPL
- Jim/N1HTS
- Doug/N1WRN
- Bruce/W1LUS
- The two young men from Michael's Upholstery who Doug conscripted to help with lowering the tower.

A special thank you to Nan, NK1A, for hosting! We could not ask for a kinder, more generous host! (Personally, I very much appreciated the smiley face pancakes!)

Also, thanks to those of you that stopped by over the weekend. I hope you had fun, chatted with folks, perhaps made a contact or two, or learned something new.

As for me, I have a much greater appreciation for the effort required to pull this thing off. I have several thoughts on how the logistics/infrastructure might be improved. I also look forward to a discussion on how we can get more people involved, as contributors to the event operation or simply showing up for an eyeball QSO.

I will send out a summary of our contacts and bonus activities in a day or so. ***[it will appear in next month's newsletter – ed.]***; for now I need a frosty beverage, a shower and some sleep.

73,
Tim/K1DC
2026 BARS Field Day Amoeba Wrestler

Announcements

Please Protect 7135 (±5) kHz in the Americas
This notice appeared in the most recent issue of the ARRL Letter.
https://www.arrl.org/arrlletterissue?issue=2026-06-25#Bookmark_A01778CD5

Earthquakes in Venezuela Prompt Request for Clear Emergency Frequency

All amateurs are being asked to keep 7135 kHz in the 40-meter band clear for emergency communications in the wake of back-to-back earthquakes that struck Venezuela on Wednesday, June 24. The two quakes, measured by the US Geological Survey at magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 respectively, occurred just one minute apart and caused extensive damage across the South American country, including the capital city of Caracas. As of Thursday morning, government officials were reporting at least 164 deaths, nearly 1000 injuries and hundreds of people missing. These tolls are expected to rise as rescue/recovery operations continue.

Acting President Delcy Rodríguez declared a state of emergency and announced on state television that the airport in Caracas was closed, trains were suspended and schools would be closed for several days. United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the US is sending emergency assistance to Venezuela.

International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 Emergency Communications Coordinator Carlos Alberto Santamaría González, CO2JC, says he has learned from the Venezuelan Radio Club's National Emergency Network director, Domingo L. Hernández Lima, YV5IZE, that a large part of Caracas is without power and that amateurs operating on battery power have already activated HF voice and digital emergency nets. "For this reason," said Santamaría González, "we request that all amateur radio colleagues in the Americas and the rest of the world protect (7135 kHz) used by Venezuelan amateur radio operators."

Santamaría González also noted that emergency communications coordinators from neighboring countries, as well as members of the Board of Directors of IARU Region 2 (North, Central, and South America), remain on standby to provide any assistance that may be needed.

USA 250 Semiquincentennial Special Operating Event
Dear Massachusetts Hams,

I am reaching out to you, would like to be part of the 2026 ARRLCelebration of the USA 250 Semiquincentennial Special Operating Event. This is part of the Year of the Club and the 100th Anniversary of the ARRL Field Organization along with a year-long Worked All States (WAS-250).

I am the state manager for Massachusetts.

For one week in August 2026, there is the ability for stations located in Massachusetts to operate as W1AW/1. ARRL membership is not required. The dates are August 12-21.

August 14th & 15th will be an SSB operation from the New England HamXposition in Marlboro. They will have precedence in choosing the band and mode (probably SSB) for a block of time. We are looking for ops that can get on multiple times during this week, from your club, home, mobile or portable stations and work stations that will be hunting you. Your transmitter MUST be in Massachusetts.

Modes that can be operated are:

- SSB
- CW
- Digital
- Satellite

ALL Logging MUST be done with computer logging that can export in ADIF format. The log will be sent to me once your operating has completed.

All volunteers will need to work together and share operating times with the team of ops. There will be an operation guide emailed a few weeks before the operating week to all volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact:
Larry Krainson, W1AST FunHamRadio@gmail.co

--de Jon W McCombie, N1ILZ
ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager
n1ilz@arrl.org

HamX draws nearly 1,800 attendees from across the region and beyond each year — and for good reason. Here's what your members can look forward to:

🎩 **THURSDAY NIGHT: MAGIC SHOW**
Kick things off Thursday evening with a performance by Jack Miller, whose brand of close-up and parlor magic has been described as "Gomez Addams meets Wile E. Coyote." Jack's whimsical, chaotic style delivers equal parts smiles, laughs, and genuine gasps — a perfect way to start the convention on a fun and memorable note.

📡 **SATURDAY KEYNOTE: Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT**
Everton is a technology teacher at Staten Island Technical High School who has woven amateur radio into his engineering classroom in creative and inspiring ways. A graduate of two levels of the ARRL Teacher's Institute and co-founder of his school's ham radio club WS1THS, Everton's passion for getting students licensed and on the air is contagious. His keynote is sure to leave you energized about the future of our hobby.

🏆 **FRIDAY DX/CONTEST BANQUET: Max Freedman, N4ML**
Max was first licensed at age 12 and has wasted no time making his mark. He's a 2026 WRTC competitor, DXpeditioner (including the rare 3Y0K Bouvet Island activation), active contester, and member of YCCC, NCDXF, INDEXA, and the Caribbean Contesting Consortium — and he's still in his early twenties. Max has turned his passion into his profession, working full-time at the ARRL's Education and Learning Department. A rising star in every sense.

🌟 **SATURDAY GRAND BANQUET: Katie Campbell, KE8LQR**
Katie was licensed at age ten and has since become one of the most impressive young operators in the country. An active CW operator, contester, member of the North Coast Contesters and Bavarian Contest Club, former youth instructor for the Long Island CW Club, and Youth on the Air PR manager for the Americas — Katie brings an extraordinary breadth of experience and enthusiasm to everything she does. She's heading off to college this fall, and the future of amateur radio couldn't be in better hands.

📻 **OUTSTANDING SESSIONS & FORUMS**
HamX is known for the sheer number and quality of its educational sessions, covering:

- Antennas & Propagation
- Emergency Communications & EMCOM/ARES
- Contesting & DXing
- VHF/UHF/Microwave & Mesh Networking
- POTA, SOTA & On-The-Air Activities
- Technology, SDR & AI in Amateur Radio
- STEM & Youth Outreach
- Club Management (dedicated "Club Track")
- SKYWARN & Public Service
- NEQRP Symposium, Open Mic Story Hour, YL Meet & Greet, and much more

License exam sessions are also available for those working toward upgrades.

🛒 **INDOOR FLEA MARKET & VENDOR EXHIBITS**
Browse a wide selection of equipment, accessories, antennas, cables, test gear, and hard-to-find parts from top vendors.

?? PRIZES
HamX features an ARRL-sanctioned prize program with exciting drawings at each banquet and the Sunday Closing Ceremonies.

This year's convention is especially significant as the official 2026 ARRL New England Division Convention — the premier amateur radio gathering in our region.

We encourage you to forward this message to your full membership, post it on your club's website or reflector, and mention it at your next meeting. Full details and ticketing are at https://hamxposition.org.

We look forward to seeing you on the air and in Marlborough this August!

73,
Ken Miller – WB1DX
HamX Marketing Team Member

Upgrading Your License? Here's a Resource
If you are thinking of upgrading your license, I recommend that you use HamStudy.org for your practice exams because their practice exams use the same software, that is used to create online exams and BARS in-person exams. With HamStudy.org practice tests you should use a touch screen or keyboard to select the answer, A, B, C, or D.

A mouse is not allowed for in-person or online exams.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

Making ZOOM available to Elmers
For a number of years, we have been using Zoom for our monthly club meetings. I have been thinking that Elmers could also be using Zoom to coach new hams instead of actually going to visit with them. Elmers could perhaps help with programming a new radio with the new ham sharing their computer screen and the Elmer helping to walk them through the process. An Elmer could have Zoom on their cell phone

and show a new ham how their shack was set up. Use your imagination and see how you might use this tool. If you would like to use Zoom for this, contact Bruce, W1LUS@hotmail.com, with a date and a time and a meeting will be setup for you. You may also contact Bruce if you would like training in using Zoom to Elmer someone.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

Friday and Sunday Night CW Slow Speed Contest
Every Friday and Sunday night, there is a weekly slow-speed CW contest run by the local K1USN guys. This is a good way to polish up your CW skills. See http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html for details. Currently, the schedule is:

Fridays 20:00-21:00 UTC (3-4pm EST) and
Mondays 00:00-01:00 UTC (7-8pm EST Sunday).

-- de Tom Walsh, K1TW

Another recurring event:
Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) Weekend Sprintathon – the Saturday following the 6th of every month at 1200 UTC
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon

BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 139, with 35 that haven't renewed their membership for 2026.

Anyone with a question about their renewal status can email me at W1LUS@hotmail.com to get your current membership status.

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

Secretary's Report for June 2026

Doug called us to order at 1905 EDT. As usual, the audio feed from the hall was difficult to copy. [We really need to ensure that all present silence their cell phones if they are logging into the Zoom feed.]

Club business:

- Tim, K1DC spoke on FD.
  There will be two HF, plus a 6m bonus VHF stations.
  All stations will have bandpass filters
  Antenna setup is planned to be on Friday evening.
  Station setup Saturday morning.
  There will be no overnight operation.
- The July & August meetings will be Zoom only.

The program started at 1925 and ended at 2020.

Following the program, there was a 50-50 auction.

We adjourned at 2059.

There were 13 participants attending via zoom.

Treasurer's Report for July 2026

Reminder: 2026 Dues are due starting January 1, 2026. BARS Dues are from January 1 to December 31. Dues for 2026 will remain at $15. Dues can be paid several ways:

- via bank-to-bank transfer with Zelle, Venmo, PayPal, etc. by sending $15 to bars.dues@outlook.com,
- with credit card by using the Join/Renewal membership form on the W1HH.org website,
- or with cash or check by mailing $15 to Billerica ARS, 16 Regis Road, Tewksbury, MA 01876

In June we had one renewal for $15 income. A $5 donation (thank you Miles) and $11 from the auction, for a total income of $31. Our expenses were Zoom $18.05, Coffee/Donuts $43.00. We now have $908.88 in the bank and $1463.68 in our PayPal account for a total of $2372.56.

Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

June Get-on-the-Air Suggestions
from Andy Wallace, KA1GTT

KA1GTT Andy Wallace here. I am offering my input for this month's Get on the Air column. These are contests which can be on HF or VHF/UHF, and may be SSB (voice), CW (Morse code) or digital (FT8, etc.) modes. If you are a beginner, contests can still be a lot of fun. Most of the time the rules expect you to submit electronic logs of your activity, but I know hams who simply want to exchange QSLs for confirmation.

Contests can be frantic - rapid exchanges (what info the stations pass back and forth) and careful rules of engagement. But others are more casual. It always helps to tune in stations and listen to the exchange and get a feel for the methods.

One of the best resources for finding out what contests are upcoming is the WA7BNM website and his 8-day contest calendar at:
https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php
This gives a snapshot of the next 8 days, and you can instantly see what contests are longer term (like across weekends) and thus more popular.

The 12-month calendar is excellent for getting a snapshot of an entire month in advance. Surprisingly, I find it has more contests listed than the "Perpetual" site view. The 12 month is what I used to compile this month's hot contests:
https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.php

Of note: contests are listed in UTC (Coordinated Universal Time or Greenwich Mean Time or Zulu) day and date. This is the time going through the 0° meridian (Greenwich, U.K.). If you are new to ham radio, you need to know hams historically use UTC to align with hams around the world in a way that being on the air at a certain time is simple. We're in Eastern Daylight Time right now, so that means UTC is 4 hours ahead of us. 0000Z being midnight Zulu/UTC/GMT translates to 8:00 PM EST. So, for a typical contest, the start of the contest is 00:01UTC November 7 (Saturday). Subtract five hours and you better have your rig ready at 8:01PM EST Friday evening.

Here is KA1GTT's list of top contests for this month - and please remember these are best guesses on my part.

1. RAC Canada Day Contest
   https://www.rac.ca/contesting-results/
   0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1, 2026
   Exchange: non-VE: RS(T) + Serial No.

2. CQ Worldwide VHF SSB/CW Contest
   https://www.cqww-vhf.com/
   1400Z, Jul 4 to 1400Z, Jul 5, 2026
   4-character grid square

3. FOC Old School Classic 1960s QSO Party
   https://www.g4foc.org/foc-old-school-classic-1960s-qso-party/
   1200Z, Jul 5 to 1200Z, Jul 6, 2026
   Real RST+3-letter class+year first licensed+name

4. CQ Worldwide VHF Digital Contest
   https://www.cqww-vhf.com/
   1400Z, Jul 18 to 1400Z, Jul 19, 2026
   Exchange:
   4-character grid square

5. North American QSO Party, RTTY
   https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
   1800Z, Jul 18 to 0559Z, Jul 19, 2026
   Exchange: NA: Name + (state/DC/province/country)

6. Alabama QSO Party
   http://alabamacontestgroup.org/aqp/rules/
   1500Z, Jul 25 to 0300Z, Jul 26, 2026
   Exchange: non-AL: RS(T) +
   (state/province/country)

**** Top recommendation for this month**

Reminder: details on each of these contests above – and more events – can be found every week on the WA7BNM contest calendar at:
https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php?mode=custom&week=current

Final comment:
Not too many happening this month! Summer doldrums. Time for cookouts and relaxing! If you get on and enjoy operating one of these events, please send an email to the BARS email reflector, bars@w1hh.org.

BARS Does breakfast every Saturday.

On Saturday mornings at 8:15AM, we meet for a casual, social breakfast at Stelio's restaurant in Billerica.
Stelio's Family Restaurant, Billerica, MA

BARS Needs You!!!

We are looking for a few good hams to act as net control on the regularly scheduled Wednesday night nets! All it takes is one night a month; if you are interested contact Doug, N1WRN.

Also, the club needs volunteers for light tasks of about 1 hour a month. Are you able to pitch in? Contact Doug Bruce, N1WRN.

Wednesday Night Net

Join us on the Billerica 147.120 Repeater for the weekly BARS net each Wednesday at 8:00 PM (**except on the first Wednesday of the month which is club meeting night**).

Repeater info:
W1DC
147.12 MHz
+600 kHz (normal) offset
Encode CTCSS 146.2 Hz

The W1DC Site
Photo courtesy of Dwight Doane
annotations by Bob DeMattia, K1IW.

Reminder: "kerchunking" the repeater is not only impolite, it's illegal. It constitutes an unidentified transmission. If you need to check that you're making the repeater, say something like "This is <your call> standing by on the frequency." Thanks for your courtesy.

Club Meetings

Club meetings are held in person (weather permitting) and via Zoom. ***[The July and August meetings will be Zoom only. – ed.]*** A link will be sent via the BARS email reflector to all currently paid-up members who might wish to attend via Zoom.

Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM Eastern time.

VE Sessions

Our VE sessions are held in-person at the Chelmsford Bible Church. Pre-registration for our in-person exams is suggested. Contact w1lus@hotmail.com for registration information.

VE sessions are held every month on the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 PM at Chelmsford Bible Church, 128 Gorham St., Chelmsford MA. Park in back and enter by rear door. Chelmsford Bible Church Hall, 128 Gorham St, Rear Door, Chelmsford MA 01824-3220 (map)

VE Session Report for July 2026
We had four people show up for the June 11 VE exam session. Results were one General, one Extra upgrades, and two new Technicians, Michael, KC1ZBT, and Jason, KC1Z??. Be sure to say hello if you hear them on the air.

Our next exam session will be on July 9 at 7:00 PM at the Chelmsford Bible Church.

Thanks to Gary, W1GFF, Wayne, KC1ONM, Peter, N1ALO, Shawn, N1CVO, and Bill, WZ1L, for their help conducting this exam session.

While walk-ins are always welcome it speeds the process up if you pre-register for your BARS VE exam session at HamStudy.org.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

Future Meetings

The next BARS General Meeting will be held via Zoom on August 5th at 7:00 PM. A Zoom link will be sent in the club email feed prior to the meeting.

Subscribe to the BARS Mailing List

To subscribe to the BARS email list, send a blank email to bars-subscribe@w1hh.org and watch for an automated reply. Note that bars-subscribe is all one word.

Reply to that message from the list server and you are then subscribed.

To post to the list, address your email to bars@w1hh.org

Photo Feature: From the Mailbag

Due to a lack of brain bandwidth otherwise occupied with preparations for Field Day, W1C activations and business travel I do not have a QSL card column to offer this month.

I will be back next month along with a summary of BARS Field Day activities; that is if I my PC doesn't melt in the coming 100F+ weather.

Show Me Your Cards! I would like to highlight cards from our club members. Send me a scan of your card or just mail one to me. Or bring one to the next club meeting and I'll collect them. Thanks!

As always, if you have received any interesting cards, hand-drawn or not, please send them along to
k1dc.radio@gmail.com
and I'll share them with the group!

73, Tim/K1DC

BARS Leadership Team

OFFICERS:

President:	Doug Bruce, N1WRN
Vice President:	David Marcucci, KC1TLF
Treasurer:	Bruce Anderson, W1LUS
Secretary:	Marla Wallace, WA1GSF
BoD:	Bill Poulin, WZ1L
BoD:	Steve Wedge, W1ES/4
Ex Officio:	Gary Frascarelli, W1GFF

VOLUNTEERS:

Net Coordinator:	Doug Bruce, N1WRN
Newsletter Editor:	Marla Wallace, WA1GSF
New Member Outreach:	Doug Bruce, N1WRN
Field Day Chair:	Tim Carter, K1DC
Webmaster:	David Marcucci, KC1TLF

Parting Shot

A ham wanted to rent a spare room to his mother's sister, since she needed a place to stay and someone in the family should be available to check on her periodically. But the neighborhood homeowners' association would not allow him to rent to her.

It seems the HOA had a rule forbidding a ham from putting up an aunt tenant.

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